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USIB-D-51.1/8
28 August 1963
(Final-USIB-Approved)

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program

REFERENCES : a. USIB-D-51.1/6, 3 July 1963
b. USIB-D-51.1/7, 12 August 1963
c. USIB-M-283, 14 August 1963, Item 5

1. As recorded in the Minutes (reference c.) which were approved on 28 August, the United States Intelligence Board at its 14 August meeting approved, for implementation as stated therein, the attached statement entitled "Concept, Direction and Management of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program, and Coordination with Other Programs of Basic Intelligence". The attached statement is intended as a replacement for the statement "Nature, Purpose and Scope of the NIS Program", dated July 1959, and contained in the NIS Standard Instructions.

2. The USIB also directed the reconstituted NIS Committee to reorient the NIS Program in accordance with the approved statement and submit to USIB, within six months, a report of progress made, problems encountered, and major shifts in Program emphasis. This directive is being transmitted to the Chairman, NIS Committee, by USIB Action Memorandum No. 63/38.

Executive Secretary

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GROUP 1
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Concept, Direction and Management
of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program,
and Coordination with Other Programs of Basic Intelligence

Concept

1. In general, the intelligence presented in the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) is concerned with the relatively unchanging natural features, fundamental characteristics and basic resources of a foreign country or other area and covers, to the extent pertinent, the geographic, oceanographic, transportation, sociological, political, economic, scientific, and military aspects of such country or area.
2. The NIS is a digest of basic intelligence, comprehensive in scope but selective in detail, required as a foundation for strategic planning, for high-level operational planning, and for the development of foreign policy. It is produced on a coordinated, interdepartmental basis and is designed to present a balanced, well-rounded background in support of planning by high-level planners and policy makers and their staffs in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military services and major military commands and other government agencies.
3. In addition to the NIS, the specialized detailed basic intelligence required by lower level planning and operational elements in the Armed Forces, the Department of State, and other government agencies will be produced by the various departments and agencies on a unilateral or interdepartmental basis, in accordance with appropriate NSCIDs and DCIDs. Although it is not designed to meet their specialized needs, the NIS should prove generally useful to the lower level planners and operational elements.

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4. Production for the NIS Program requires the continuation of an over-all collection effort covering all foreign countries and areas. The intelligence data resulting from this collection and subsequent processing necessarily are more comprehensive and detailed than those appearing in the printed NIS and constitute a reservoir of data to serve as a basis for the separate, supplemental departmental and interdepartmental basic intelligence production expected to be required in accordance with paragraph 3 above.

5. The Outline and Outline Guides in their entirety are to be flexibly adapted to the country or area or topic concerned on the premise that each NIS should contain only data essential for high-level planning, and that such data can be kept up to date at reasonable intervals.

6. Thus, NIS Outline and Outline Guides do not prescribe a requirement for uniformly comprehensive NIS coverage on all countries or areas, although they do provide a check list for any country, including the unusual case where maximum coverage would be required to support strategic and high-level operational planning or development of foreign policy. Accordingly, for each NIS area the extent of treatment given to any topic covered in the Outline and Outline Guides over and above that prescribed for the "General Survey" (formerly Chapter I) shall be based, for each production or maintenance cycle, upon an explicit determination on an individual basis of the significance with which that topic applies to the particular country or area.

Direction and Management

7. The responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) for coordination of the foreign intelligence activities of the United States includes responsibility for over-all coordination of the NIS Program, and of other departmental and interdepartmental basic intelligence programs. Under this general coordination of the DCI:

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a. Coordination of the NIS Program is accomplished as indicated in paragraphs 8-11 below.

b. Heads of agencies have responsibility for departmental basic intelligence programs in accordance with applicable NSCIDs and DCIDs, (including production of the more detailed and transient basic intelligence which may be required over and above the NIS) and for ensuring coordination of their respective departmental programs with the NIS Program.

8. The United States Intelligence Board (USIB) is responsible for providing policy direction to the NIS Program. For this purpose, USIB performs the following functions:

a. Establishes over-all policies for the Program.

b. Allocates responsibility for production and maintenance of the NIS in accordance with the mission, production capability, and primary interest of the agencies concerned.

c. Establishes priorities for production of the NIS.

d. Establishes policies for the dissemination of the NIS.

9. The NIS Committee assists the USIB in carrying out its responsibilities for the NIS Program and is responsible to the USIB. The NIS Committee consists of a designated representative from the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the Departments of Army, Navy and Air Force. The representative of the CIA is the Chairman of the Committee. Other departments and agencies may be invited to participate in the work of the NIS Committee as agreed by the Committee. CIA is responsible for general administration of the NIS Program and shall provide appropriate administrative and secretarial support to the Committee and its Chairman as a service of common concern. In carrying out its responsibilities to the USIB, the NIS Committee shall:

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- a. Recommend to the USIB allocations of responsibility for the production and maintenance of the NIS.
- b. Recommend to the USIB priorities for NIS Production, based upon the anticipated needs of high-level planners and policy makers.
- c. Establish and monitor the NIS production and maintenance schedules based on USIB-approved priorities and taking into account agency capabilities and available resources.
- d. Determine the scope and treatment to be given to each NIS area.
- e. Approve and promulgate NIS Outlines, Outline Guides, other Standard Instructions, and revisions thereto.
- f. Approve for publication the NIS General Surveys (formerly Chapter I).
- g. Report to USIB annually on the status, including estimated costs, of the NIS Program as a whole, and at such other times and on such aspects of the Program as may be appropriate.

10. USIB agencies shall:

- a. Produce and maintain, in accordance with NIS Outlines and NIS Committee guidance, the NIS units allocated to them by the USIB as production and maintenance responsibilities and as scheduled for production by the NIS Committee. In meeting these responsibilities, USIB agencies may arrange for appropriate assistance from agencies of the government not represented on USIB.
- b. Implement as appropriate to their collection responsibilities under NSCID No. 2 the collection efforts required for NIS production and maintenance.

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c. Advise the NIS Committee of departmental basic intelligence produced, in progress or planned, which relates to an NIS area scheduled for production or maintenance, in order that reference to such additional intelligence may be incorporated, as appropriate, in such NIS.

.11. CIA performs the following services of common concern with respect to the NIS Program:

a. Provides final editorial review of NIS contributions to ensure consistency and compliance with procedures and guidance promulgated by the NIS Committee.

b. Accomplishes final processing and reproduction of NIS units.

c. Disseminates the NIS in accordance with USIB policy.

d. Issues NIS Committee approved guidance and provides such administrative and other common services as the NIS Committee determines can best be done centrally.

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